Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)
	)
AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE	)
	)
Request for a Waiver of Section 97.111(a) of the Commission's Rules to Permit Demonstration of Amateur-Military Cross-Band Capabilities During Amateur-Military Commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day	)

ORDER

Adopted: November 20, 2024 **Released: November 20, 2024**

By the Deputy Chief, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau:

1. *Introduction.* By this order, we grant the request filed by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) for a limited waiver of section 97.111(a) of the Commission's rules to permit licensed amateur stations to communicate with Federal stations over a two-day period. The waiver request is for the limited purpose of a short-term event commemorating the 83rd anniversary of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on December 7 and 8, 2024.[1]

2. *Background.* Section 97.111(a) of the Commission's rules authorizes amateur stations to transmit specific types of two-way communications and limits communications with Federal stations.[2] Section 97.111(a)(5) of the rule grants specific authority to communicate with Federal stations for such communications for one armed forces special event day, the Armed Forces Day Communications Test.[3] No other commemoration day is authorized in this section.

3. ARRL seeks this waiver for December 7 and 8, 2024, for the purposes of a short term event commemorating the Pearl Harbor attack.[4] ARRL states that the tests such as those proposed provide opportunities to train operators and test two-way communications capabilities between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service, which allows operators to demonstrate technical skills in a controlled scenario.[5] ARRL also represents that the frequencies and time periods selected will not impact any public, private, or government communications.[6]

4. *Discussion.* To obtain a waiver of the Commission's rules, a petitioner must demonstrate either that the underlying purpose of the rule would not be served or would be frustrated by application to the present case, and that a grant of the waiver would be in the public interest; or,

[1] Request for Waiver of Section 97.111(a) of the Commission's Rules to Permit Demonstration of Amateur-Military Cross-Band Capabilities During Amateur-Military Commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day, at 1, (filed Oct. 7, 2024) https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1007159896350/1 (Waiver Request); *see* 47 CFR § 97.111(a).

[2] 47 CFR § 97.111(a).

[3] 47 CFR § 97.111(a)(5).

[4] Waiver Request at 1.

[5] *Id*. at 2.

[6] *Id*. at 2.

that in view of unique or unusual factual circumstances of the instant case, application of the rule would be inequitable, unduly burdensome, or contrary to the public interest, or the applicant has no reasonable alternative.[7] We conclude that granting the requested waiver, for the following reasons and with the following limitations, is in the public interest.

5. We find grant of the waiver meets the waiver standard because this event presents a unique opportunity for amateur operators to practice communications skills under the guidance of military officials, which may be useful in the future and serves the public interest.[8] We also find that the limitations proposed by ARRL are appropriate to prevent harmful interference and to serve the purpose of the commemorative event.[9]

6. Specifically, this waiver is conditioned on participating amateur stations: 1) monitoring the following five federal frequencies: 7,469 kHz, 14,667 kHz, 19,160 kHz, 21,856 kHz, and 12,382 kHz; 2) responding solely on frequencies being monitored and announced by the military operators, all of which will be authorized for use by Amateur Radio operators; 3) operating consistent with the privileges of their amateur licenses; and 4) limiting communications to the period beginning December 7, 2024 through December 8, 2024. Additionally, all other related Commission regulations that are applicable to amateur operators will continue to apply (e.g., mode, maximum power, and license class).

7. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that pursuant to section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 154(i), and section 1.925 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.925, the Request for a Waiver of Section 97.111(a) of the Commission's Rules IS GRANTED as set forth and conditioned above.

8. This action is taken under delegated authority pursuant to sections 0.131 and 0.331 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.131, 0.331.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Thomas Derenge
Deputy Chief, Mobility Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

[7] 47 CFR § 1.925(b)(3).

[8] 47 CFR § 1.925(b)(3).

[9] Waiver Request at 3.